



S.P.A.R.K.

April 2026

Sedalia Pettis Amateur Radio Klub

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NEWSLETTER

The latest news, views, and announcements in Sedalia's HAM Radio Community

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(WAØQCJ)

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(KAØJWA)

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EDITOR'S MOMENT



April Fool!

Pranks are pranks and fun is fun

...and never one to be outdone.

I've pulled my share throughout the years

and clearly laughed myself to tears.

Of favorite all-time pranking' ploys

I played upon my little boys.

Unsuspecting of my crime

I got them almost every time.

The prank involved the kitchen sink

to zap them when they came to drink.

A rubber band tight 'round the spray,

was guaranteed to make their day.

The sprayer head lined up just so,

Turn on the faucet and watch 'er go!

The stage is set to seal their fate.

Now all I do is sit and wait.

An hour passes then two and three.

I drum my fingers upon my knee.

I'm getting bored, I sit and pout

How much longer? I wait them out.

Josh wanders through to fix a snack.

He's sorely missed my plan of attack.

Jess hollars', "Mom, I want a drink!"

"Help yourself child, there's the sink!"

"No, that's OK, I'll have a Coke."

Are my prankster days dissolved in smoke?

I wonder myself, is this joke dead?

...growling bad thoughts left unsaid.

Day passes to evening the prank most forgot.

Not a kid took the bait and neither got caught.

With great disappointment I make me some tea.

Pfshuttht!, from the sprayer...all over me!

With audience of two rolling there on the floor,

"Great one, Mom!" "Can you give us some more?"

Historically speaking it stands as a rule,

once again, I remain my best April Fool.

(WAØQCJ) Connie Koch – March 2013



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



SPARK Members and Friends,

April is looking like a fun and busy month for our club! This Saturday, after our meeting, we'll be heading over to the Missouri State Fairgrounds for the homesteading event. Paul will have our trailer there so come out and help us show off amateur radio to these folks and have a great time connecting with them.

Later this month, we'll be taking to the HAM Bands at the Bothwell Lodge just north of town for a Parks on the Air activation. Joel and Brian are going to be set up for this and it will be a perfect excuse to get outside, play radio, and enjoy each other's good company.

Thanks for all the energy you bring to the club and I hope to see you at both events!

Don't forget the meeting this Saturday at 8:30 AM.

73

Club President

Bret (WØVK)

NEXT MEETING – April 4th 8:30

Pettis County EOC --- 1511 N. Ohio

NETS AND FREQUENCIES

2 Meter Net – Sunday at 7:30 PM – 147.03 repeater – offset 179.9pl

75 Meter Round Table – Sunday at 9:30 AM – 3950 (3813 other times) operator Paul (KØETL)

Simplex Net – Wednesday at 8 PM – 147.575 operator Paul (KØETL)

220 Sedalia Rag Chew Net – Wednesday at 8:30 – 224.440 – 107.3pl

Live Streams 147.03 and 224.44 repeaters on broadcastify.com

HAMFEST CALENDAR 2026
de – Brooks (KAØJWA)

2026 HAMFEST dates will be posted as available after the New Year



April Birthdays!

Steve Galliher – 5th (KF0SJG)

Larry Lake – 6th (KB0LCO)

Steve Semon – 16th (KE0CYW)

Doc Buckley – 20th (W3MEB)

Chris Sparks - 25th (KC0TKS)



NEIGHBORHOOD CLUBS NEWS UPDATE

de – Ryan Anderson (KFØHYP)

Marshall – Saline County ARES Club Events:

Every Monday @ 7:30 PM – 2-Meter Repeater Net – 146.685 - Negative offset- Input and Output tone of 127.3

2nd Tuesday @ 6:00 PM – Club Meeting

WHEN SENDING E-MAIL MESSAGES, ARTICLES, OR OTHER CORRESPONDENCE, USE THE FOLLOWING E-ADDRESS FOR CONNIE (WAØQCJ). TEXTING IS STILL AN OPEN OPTION.

connies1.newsletters@gmail.com

WHO-ZIT?



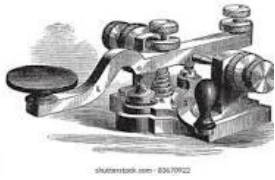
This is no April Fools joke, friends... Sorry, there is no WHO-ZIT? this month.





FIRST QUARTER CHALLENGE!

NOW'S THE TIME! BRING YOUR 1ST QUARTER CHALLENGE RESULTS TO RICHARD AT THE APRIL MEETING TO REDEEM YOUR MAJOR PRIZE IN MAY! MAJOR PRIZE TBA...POSSIBLY 'WALL PAPER' TO HANG IN YOUR SHACK!



CW CLASS CONTINUES ON TO LESSON NINE!

Hearty members of the Wednesday evening CW class continue their momentum toward becoming skilled Brass Pounders.

Two junior members, Caleb and Kendall Nerad, offspring at the Amber (KEØQYL) and Daren (KDØOPS) QTH are **kickin' it!** Everyone is sending CW in full sentences now and are approaching their 11th and final class. I'm very proud of their tenacity and progress and hope to offer more instruction in the future. de (WAØQCJ)

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HARRY – KØTV



Taken from a book written by Robert Fulghum

“All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten”

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

CLEAN UP YOUR OWN MESS.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say you're SORRY when you HURT somebody.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Flush.

Warm cookies and cold milk are good.

Take a nap every afternoon.

Watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.

...Lessons we should all occasionally be reminded of.



Start Planning for ARRL Field Day 2026!

03/13/2026

It's not too early to gear up and get ready for ARRL Field Day! Field Day 2026 takes place June 27 – 28 and will bring together more than 30,000 amateur radio operators for one of the most popular on-the-air events in the US and Canada. This year's Field Day theme is "Amateur Radio: A National Resource." Combined with the [ARRL Year of the Club](#), it provides the perfect opportunity for radio clubs to set up stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation.

All of the information you need to get started can be found on the [Field Day](#) web page, including how to join the [ARRL Field Day Facebook Group](#), where you can share your plans, tips, and tricks for a successful Field Day.

The overall objective for Field Day is to contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-meter HF bands, as well as all bands above 50 MHz, and to learn to operate in less than optimal conditions. Many clubs choose to set up in camp-style fashion with portable equipment, temporary antennas, and off-grid power sources.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2 (North and South America). DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries. Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may be either locally or by remote.

Also check out the [Field Day site locator page](#) to help find participating stations near you. As an added incentive for anyone participating in ARRL's yearlong America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award, contacts made with ARRL Affiliated Radio Clubs all year, including during Field Day, will count toward your America250 WAS Affiliated Club Endorsement. Check out those details at www.arrl.org/america250-was.

For more information about ARRL Field Day, visit www.arrl.org/field-day.

BIG THANKS

For many past issues of your newsletter, we have enjoyed the technical articles that Phillip Markman has shared with us. I would like to bring to your attention that he is both an outstanding writer and author. Phillip's contributions are always meticulously written and he puts much thought and research into each article. For this, Phillip, WE THANK YOU SO MUCH!



GUEST EDITORIAL – PHILLIP MARKMAN (KJ5ZW)

Phillip is a former member of our founding club CMARC, and we welcome his editorial from present QTH – Hawkins, Texas

Batteries and Power Supplies By (KJ5ZW) Phillip

If you talk to me via HF radio, there is a very good chance I am on battery power. Most of the time I will be operating with a pair of twelve-volt, deep cell batteries. I have wired the batteries in parallel; positive terminal to positive terminal and negative terminal to negative terminal, thus, keeping the total voltage at or close to twelve or thirteen volts with twice the amperage stored. With this configuration, I can operate for three or four months before charging is needed. Last year 2025, I went five months before charging was needed.

Normally I work more HF than VHF with a high percent of that being CW. On HF my Yaesu FT-857 can transmit as high as: 100 watts on HF, 50 watts on VHF, and 20 watts on UHF. Last year I was experimenting with the lowest wattage needed to get into and hold repeaters “full quieting” plus 5 watts. If I could hold a repeater with full quieting at 15 watts, I would transmit with 20 watts just in case there was extra QRN I was not aware of. Also, I would operate at 20 or 50 watts on HF instead of 100. That was the reason I could go 5 months before needing to recharge the battery system. I believe I could have gone another month however, did not want to push it and get caught “needing” the battery power. That being said, the third battery was just sitting there singing a song, “Don’t forget about me!!” HI HI

When the need to charge the batteries arrives, I unplug the radio from the battery system and plug into a regulated power supply rated at 35 amperes. Then the trickle battery charger gets hooked up to the battery system and will be left for a week or more. The trickle charger will maintain “floating charge” with circuits that will not allow an “overcharge” to happen.

Now might be a good time for a little bit of power supply education and explanation.

What is the difference between a switching power supply and the Linear Regulated power supply?

I have two power supplies here in the radio corner of my workshop; A Linear Regulated PS and a Switching PS.

A regulated PS maintains a constant output voltage using a heavy-duty transformer and linear regulation regardless of input voltage changes 110 VAC to 120 VAC, etc. Mine is rated for 35 amps and has been in my possession for approximately 30 years and only had a diode replaced and 10 or 12 years later a resistor replaced. In 2025 I replaced the voltage panel meter.

A switching PS will ramp up the 60 Hz house frequency to several kHz or even MHz. Then it will break that down to 13.8 VDC. I have one of these power supplies as well. They both are variable from about 5 VDC to as high as 18 VDC. “The Book” says a switching PS needs to be away from the radio at least 6 feet with 12 feet of wire. 6 feet to the radio and 6 feet back to the PS; one wire is positive and the other wire is negative DUH.

The reasoning is due to the Ramp Up in frequency and you do not want the PS frequency to mix with your signal. The switching PS does have some advantages over the Regulated PS such as: much less weight. It is lighter due to the smaller components used with higher frequencies.

For me, the Linear voltage Regulation is an advantage over the switching PS. My HEAVY Regulated PS does not have to be moved!

I have 2 friends that both use switching PS. One has had his for almost 20 years and the other friend has had his for 10 years and he said it is on the floor and never turns it off! Mine was purchased a year after moving back to Texas, I used it for two and a half years, then wanted to see if the Regulated PS worked or needed to be junked. To my surprise, it worked just fine, produced 13.81 VDC with near “battery flat” response on an oscilloscope but, needed a front panel voltage meter. One time the lights went out in my workshop, so I purchased the two deep cell batteries I have today.

Today, I have my battery bank and linear regulated PS; one on each side of the operating station so it is very easy to utilize either one I want.

The 3rd battery is my POTA battery. I have never run out of power with that battery for any event. I just make sure it is topped off before loading into the vehicle.



Until next time,
de (KJ5ZW) \\
Phillip Markmann



SIGNING OFF WITH BROOKS

(KAØJWA)

WORTH REPEATING! SAVE THE DATE!

The 2026 Missouri QSO Party (MOQP) is scheduled for **April 11-12, 2026**, shifted slightly later than usual due to Easter. The contest begins at 1400 UTC on April 11 and ends at 0400 UTC on April 12, 2026, generally running through the weekend. It is coordinated by the [Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society St. Louis \(BEARS-STL\)](#).

Key Details for 2026:

- **Dates:** April 11-12, 2026.
- **Time:** Begins 1400Z, April 11, and ends 0400Z, April 12, 2026.
- **Special Activity:** Operators often work 1x1 call signs to spell "SHOWME" and "MISSOURI".

WOMA +2

The contest focuses on making contacts with stations in all of Missouri's counties.

YOUR BROWNIE UPDATE !



You boys and girls have been subjected to my ‘brownie baking fetish’ for some time now. I do bake a lot of them...so many in fact, that I order 100 aluminum pans at a time on Amazon. Last week I needed to reorder. My account notified me that this would be the 6th order of 100 pans each! Do the math...that’s 500+ pans of brownies...going on 600! For those of you whose diabetes I have affected, I apologize. For the rest of you, I just pulled 6 more pans out of the oven this morning

...You’re welcome! Hi Hi BTW...these brownies have become a high-dollar commodity at auction! Recently 3 pans of brownies were auctioned off at \$50 per pan at the University of Missouri Fundraiser this month! Always know...you are my very favorite victims! Hi Hi!

QRT FOR NOW de KAØJWA es WAØQCJ

